Based on the above criteria, Oil Industry has identified 1285 urban/rural and 401 exclusively rural locations in the country for servicing the rural areas under the revised 1996-98 Marketing Plan.

Stopping the Import of HSD

2580. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to stop imports of High Speed Diesel (HSD) from August as reported in the Economic Times dated the 16th February, 1999;

(b) what is the projected demand and supply of diesel for 1999-2000; and

(c) whether Government have taken into account various exigencies while arriving at these figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERTROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Import of Petroleum Products including HSD would, interalia, depend upon the overall demand and supply position in the country and the prevailing market conditions. As per IX Five Year Plan (1997-2000) document, the projected demand of petroleum products including HSD for 1999-2000 is likely to be 93.67 MMT. The projected demand and supply of Diesel for 1999-2000 as per present indications are 39.63 MMT and 39.87 MMT respectively. The productwise projection of demand and supply is made every year in the Oil Economy Budget taking into account the projections made by the Oil Industry, production trend and various other exigencies.

Powers to Revive Dealerships

2581. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have delegated its powers to respective Oil Corporation to revive dealerships/ distributorsips suspended/pending since 1996 to face the probable competition with private maketers in spite of recommendation of oil industries to revive all such pending cases irrespective of any base year;

(b) what are the reasons for selecting this year as base year and the details thereof;

(c) whether the step would not initiate the probable litigation and would not discriminate among the petitioners;

(d) whether this step would not be beneficial to private oil companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to empower Oil Companies to face emerging competition from the private sector in the deregulated scenario, Government have issued guidelines delegating powers to the oil companies for revival of dealerships/ distributorships subject to certain conditions. One of the conditions is that the RO dealership terminated before 1.1.1996 will not to be considered for revival, SKO / LDO dealerships will not be revived.

(b) It was felt that extending the base year further may invite large number of representa tions in respect of very old cases.

(c) Government do not foresee such a situation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Refund of Commission by Oil Corporations

2582. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil Corporations are refunding the draft commission on the purchase of products to the retail outlet dealers and the same is not being refunded to LPG dealers; and

(b) if so, the reasons for discrimination and details and guidelines for fixing up the dealer's commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) While fixing the dealers' commission for Motor Spirit and High